

# Tay Heritage

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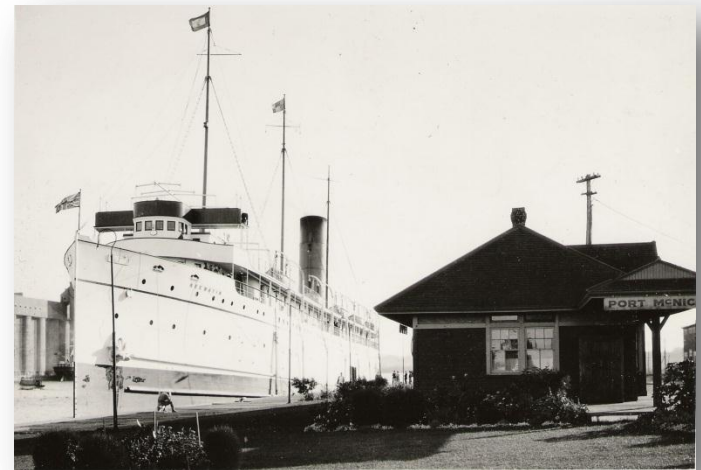
The Victoria Harbour Library, c. 1915.

# Importance of Heritage

- Heritage places are part of the identity and culture of a community. They tell the story of its past and are something to take pride in.
- Preserving buildings and landscapes enhances the character and diversity of a location. It allows residents to adapt and reuse instead of demolishing.
- “These places are integral parts of the identity of our communities, but they also play a significant role in economic development by helping to enhance a community’s quality of life, strengthen its distinctiveness, stimulate revitalization and attract tourist dollars.”  
(Ministry of Culture and Recreation)

# The Heritage Act

- In Ontario, the Heritage Act is the most important piece of legislation for protecting our heritage resources.
- It gives municipal governments the authority to:
  - Appoint a Heritage Committee
  - Designate properties of Cultural Heritage Value
  - Create a Heritage Register
  - Enter into Easement Agreements
  - Implement Tax Rebate Programs



# Heritage Committee

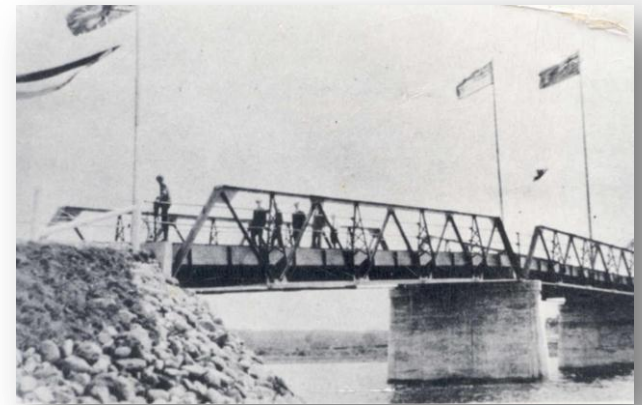
- Tay's Heritage Committee is a seven member board that advises Council on heritage issues.
- Members are appointed by council from the general public. The Mayor is also invited to be part of the Committee.
- The main goal is to undertake research, prepare informational material and organize events to promote heritage (eg. Doors Open)
- The Committee often partners with residents, community groups, and other heritage bodies such as the Huronia Museum

# Heritage Designation

- Municipal governments can designate a property of cultural heritage value or interest if it meets a set of prescribed criteria.
- “Designation not only publicly recognizes and promotes awareness of heritage properties, it also provides a process for ensuring that changes to a heritage property are appropriately managed and that these changes respect the property’s heritage value. This includes protection from demolition.”  
(Ministry of Culture and Recreation)

# Heritage Designation

- All properties to be designated follow the same process:
  - Identify as a candidate
    - Submitted by committee, owner, or individual
  - Research and Evaluate
    - A report is prepared for Council by the Heritage Committee
  - Notice of Intention to Designate
    - A copy is sent to the property owner and posted in a local paper
    - A period of time is allotted to file an objection
  - Council passes By-law
    - The By-law is registered on the title of the property
  - Once designated, the property is listed on the Municipal and Provincial Registers





# Heritage Designation

- Many types of sites can be designated as having cultural heritage value or interest such as buildings, monuments, natural features, cemeteries, spiritual sites, building interiors, ruins, and archaeological sites.
- Properties are evaluated on four major criteria:
  - Community Context
  - Historical Research
  - Site Analysis and Physical Evidence
  - Context and Environment
- Once the evaluation is completed, a report is prepared and submitted to council for review



# After Designation

- Demolition and Alteration

- Any works involving a heritage aspect require a Heritage Permit. These are reviewed by the Heritage Committee and a recommendation is given to Council. The Committee can also act as a resource for the property owner and give suggestions on alterations.
- Demolition requires 60 days written notice to give Council time to consider the notice and take any appropriate action.



- If an application for alteration is refused or the owner objects to the terms, they may appeal to the Conservation Review Board. The Board's findings are considered by Council and a final decision is made.

# After Designation

- Change in Ownership
  - After a change in ownership, the new owner is required to give notice to the clerk within 30 days.
  - Heritage designations and easements are registered on the title of the property and are transferred to the new owner.
- Maintenance Standards
  - Council has the authority to pass a Building By-law that sets out minimum maintenance standards for protecting the heritage attributes of the property.



# After Designation

- Tax Rebates
  - The owner of a designated property with a heritage easement can obtain a property tax rebate.
  - Up to 40% of the building that is eligible heritage property and up to 10% of the land used in connection with that heritage property.
- Amendment and Repeal
  - Council has the power to amend or repeal a designation By-law.
  - This follows a similar process and notice period as the initial designation.

# After Designation

- Offences and Restoration
  - If a building is altered against the Act, Council may restore the property to its original condition and recover costs from the owner.
  - Council can also give authority to anyone who must enter the property for the restoration.
  - These powers do not apply if the property is altered for reasons of public health and safety or for the preservation of the property.



# Heritage Easements

- Another way in which a property can be recognized for having cultural heritage value is through a heritage easement.
- This is a covenant between the municipality and property owner that can apply to any property.
- It allows the municipality and property owner to work together to ensure the property's protection.
- A grant or loan may be given to the owner as part of the easement agreement. There may also be tax benefits.

# Conclusion

- The importance of preserving our heritage cannot be understated. We all have a part to play in promoting Tay Township's history.
- "If Ontario's heritage is to be preserved, it will be because of local initiative and involvement."  
(Ministry of Culture and Recreation)
- If you have any questions or would like more information on heritage, visit our website at [www.tay.ca](http://www.tay.ca), or contact us at 705-534-7248.